<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 12, 15, and 17 as follows; please cancel Claim 3, 6-11, and 14.

1. (Currently Amended) A datapath structure, comprising:

one or more cell instances, each cell instance having a pin;

one or more pseudo cell instances, each pseudo cell instance having a pseudo pin, each pseudo cell instance in the one or more pseudo cell instances being placed at a location relative to the one or more cell instances in encouraging a predetermined structure; and

one or more pseudo nets, a first pseudo net connecting between a pin of a first cell instance in the one or more cell instances and a pin [[in a pin]] in a first pseudo cell instance in the one or more pseudo cell instances, <u>wherein the first pseudo cell instance</u> <u>being placed at a relative location to the first real cell instance produces a zero length in</u> <u>the first pseudo net</u>.

2. (Original) The structure of Claim 1 further comprising a first relative position between the first cell instance and the first pseudo cell instance.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) <u>A datapath</u> [[The]] structure [[of Claim 1]], comprising:

one or more cell instances, each cell instance having a pin;

one or more pseudo cell instances, each pseudo cell instance having a pseudo pin, each pseudo cell instance in the one or more pseudo cell instances being placed at a location relative to the one or more cell instances in encouraging a predetermined structure; and

one or more pseudo nets, a first pseudo net connecting between a pin of a first cell instance in the one or more cell instances and a pin [[in a pin]] in a first pseudo cell instance in the one or more pseudo cell instances

wherein the first pseudo cell instance being placed at a location to the first cell instance [[thereby]] produces a [[producing the]] first pseudo length having a value which is greater than a zero length.

5. (Original) The structure of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined structure comprises a column structure, a row structure, or a square structure.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for encouraging a structure bonding, comprising the steps of:

placing a first pseudo cell instance at a location relative to a first cell instance in a plurality of cell instances for encouraging a predetermined structure bonding in the plurality of cell instances; [[and]]

connecting a [[the]] pseudo net between the cell instance and the pseudo cell instance; and

providing a first offset between the pseudo cell instance and the first cell instance.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of minimizing a wire length in the pseudo net from the placement of the first pseudo cell instance relative to the first cell instance.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for encouraging a structure bonding, comprising: [[The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of]]

placing a first pseudo cell instance at a location relative to a first cell instance in a plurality of cell instances for encouraging a predetermined structure bonding in the plurality of cell instances;

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connecting a pseudo net between the cell instance and the pseudo cell instance;

providing a first offset between the pseudo cell instance and the first cell instance; and

determining a second offset between the pseudo cell instance and a second cell instance in the plurality of cell instances.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the predetermined structure comprises a column structure, a row structure, or a square.

17. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for encouraging a structure bonding, comprising: [[The method of Claim 12]]

placing a first pseudo cell instance at a location relative to a first cell instance in a plurality of cell instances for encouraging a predetermined structure bonding in the plurality of cell instances; and

connecting a pseudo net between the cell instance and the pseudo cell instance;

wherein the placing step comprises the step of placement without introducing extra dead placement spaces.